

FIREWORK COMPARISON

Specifications of National Model Code and Standards

International Fire Code (IFC) model and NFPA Standards 1123, 1124 & 1126

Virginia Specifications

Code of Virginia and Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (as built upon IFC and incorporated by reference) and NFPA Standards 1123, 1124 & 1126.

Fireworks 1.3G (Formerly Class B, Special Fireworks)

"Large fireworks devices, which are explosive materials, intended for use in fireworks displays and designed to produce audible or visible effects by combustion, deflagration or detonation. Such 1.3G fireworks include, but are not limited to, firecrackers containing more than 130 milligrams (2 grains) of explosive composition, aerial shells containing more than 40 grams of pyrotechnic composition, and other display pieces which exceed the limits for classification as 1.4G fireworks. Such 1.3G fireworks, are also described as Fireworks, UN0335 by the DOTn."

[Regulated by IFC model fire code and NFPA 1123 and 1126.]

Fireworks 1.4G (Formerly Class C, Common Fireworks or Consumer Fireworks)

"Small fireworks devices containing restricted amounts of pyrotechnic composition designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion. Such 1.4G fireworks...comply with the construction, chemical composition and labeling regulations of the DOTn for Fireworks, UN 0336, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as set forth in CPSC 16 CFR: Parts 1500 and 1507..."

[Prohibited by IFC model fire code unless allowed by applicable laws, ordinances and regulations and comply with CPSC and DOTn regulations for consumer fireworks.]

Professional Display and Close Proximity Fireworks

- Firecrackers
- Bottle Rockets
- Roman Candles

- Fountains
- Spinners
- Pinwheels
- Pharaoh's Serpents (Snakes)
- Fountains
- Sparklers
- Caps for toy pistols

Fireworks (§ 27-95 of the Code of Virginia)

"Any firecracker, torpedo, skyrocket, or other substance or object, of whatever form or construction, that contains any explosive or inflammable compound or substance, and is intended, or commonly known, as fireworks and which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, or fires projectiles into the air. Fireworks shall not include automobile flares, paper caps containing not more than an average of 0.25 grain (16 mg) of explosive content per cap or toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns or other devices utilizing such caps, and items commonly known as party poppers, pop rocks and snap-n-pops."

[Repeated in SFPC from § 27-95 of the COV. Regulated by SFPC and NFPA 1123 and 1126.]

(NOTE: Includes what is sometimes referred to as *high-end* consumer fireworks.)

Permissible Fireworks (§ 27-95 of the Code of Virginia)

"... means any sparklers, fountains, Pharaoh's serpents, caps for pistols, or pinwheels commonly known as whirligigs or spinning jennies."

[Repeated in SFPC from § 27-95 of the COV. Not regulated if items comply with CPSC and DOTn regulations for consumer fireworks and not prohibited by local ordinance.]

(NOTE: Sometimes referred to as *low-end* or "safe-n-sane" consumer fireworks.)

In Virginia, firework permits must be obtained through a local fire official. If a locality does not have the services of a local fire official, a fireworks display permit may still be issued by the locality under authority granted by the following Code of Virginia section:

§ 15.2-974. Permits for display of fireworks; use and exhibitions. The governing bodies of the several counties, cities and towns shall have the power to provide for the issuance of permits for the display of fireworks by fair associations, amusement parks, or by any organization or group of individuals, under the minimum terms and conditions set forth in the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.) and any additional terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the locality. Any association, organization, or group that has been issued a permit may purchase and make use of fireworks under the terms and conditions of such permit.

Permits are not required for the use of "permissible fireworks" on private property with the permission of the property owner. But localities may have a local prohibition against "permissible fireworks". Please check with local government authorities on any local restrictions.